

were doing is eventually changing the standards for adoptions. Their discussion seems to indicate to me that they are not but let me tell you what I think what my fear was when you first look at these. If you get the information, what are you going to do with it? Will you give it to the judge right now and I believe, and correct me if I'm wrong, Senator Lynch, I think the standard of review by the court is what is in the best interest of the child and I think that's true and so the judge, she can take all that information together and she can look at it and she can decide should I do this or not? Quite frankly, 95 percent of the time or maybe even more that that adoption will be granted. But let's say that we have people who get excited and say, well once we get all this criminal history maybe we should start going down and making categories of who should be adoptive parents and who shouldn't, who should and shouldn't be and maybe one of those categories are two convictions of drunk driving and the reason that you say that is, well, gee, we all know that parents or the children are more likely to be alcoholics if they grow up in families of alcoholics and here is the substantive proof that here is two convictions and we should shut those people out from being adoptive parents. As long as the standard, as long as that standard is in the best interest of the child I have no fears. It's when you start to place those statutory ineligibilities that may occur and the fear is that once you get the histories, the next step is to start to be able to disqualify people. And I guess there is a lot of analogies you can make. Right now I'm comfortable after listening to Senator Wesely and Senator Lynch that I can accept those amendments as long as we keep that standard of best interest of the child and you do not start to place categories of people who become ineligible and then it becomes the judgment of 25 people who can be adoptive parents and who can't be instead of taking the discretion of the court. As long as that's in there, I'd support doing that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Just briefly, I appreciate Senator Kristensen and Senator Bernard-Stevens' comments. I want to make sure you understand that. We did not intend to set standards for adoption. I don't think any of us want to tell a judge that potential parent ZXYF and W is okay but all the rest of them, be careful because they've got two DWI's. It's just the opposite from that, just the opposite from that. All we attempted to do with this study, which I've already explained before, was to